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The Agricultural Student

HORSE NUMBER



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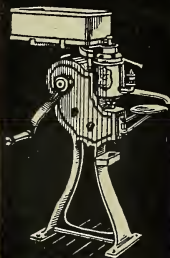
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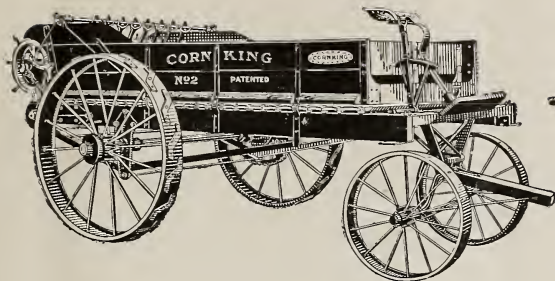
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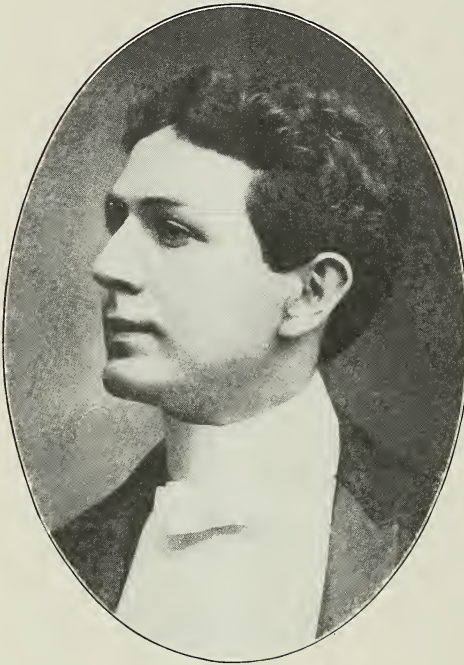
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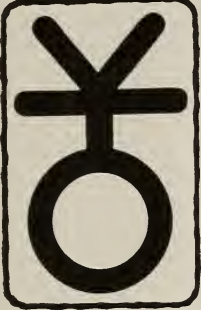
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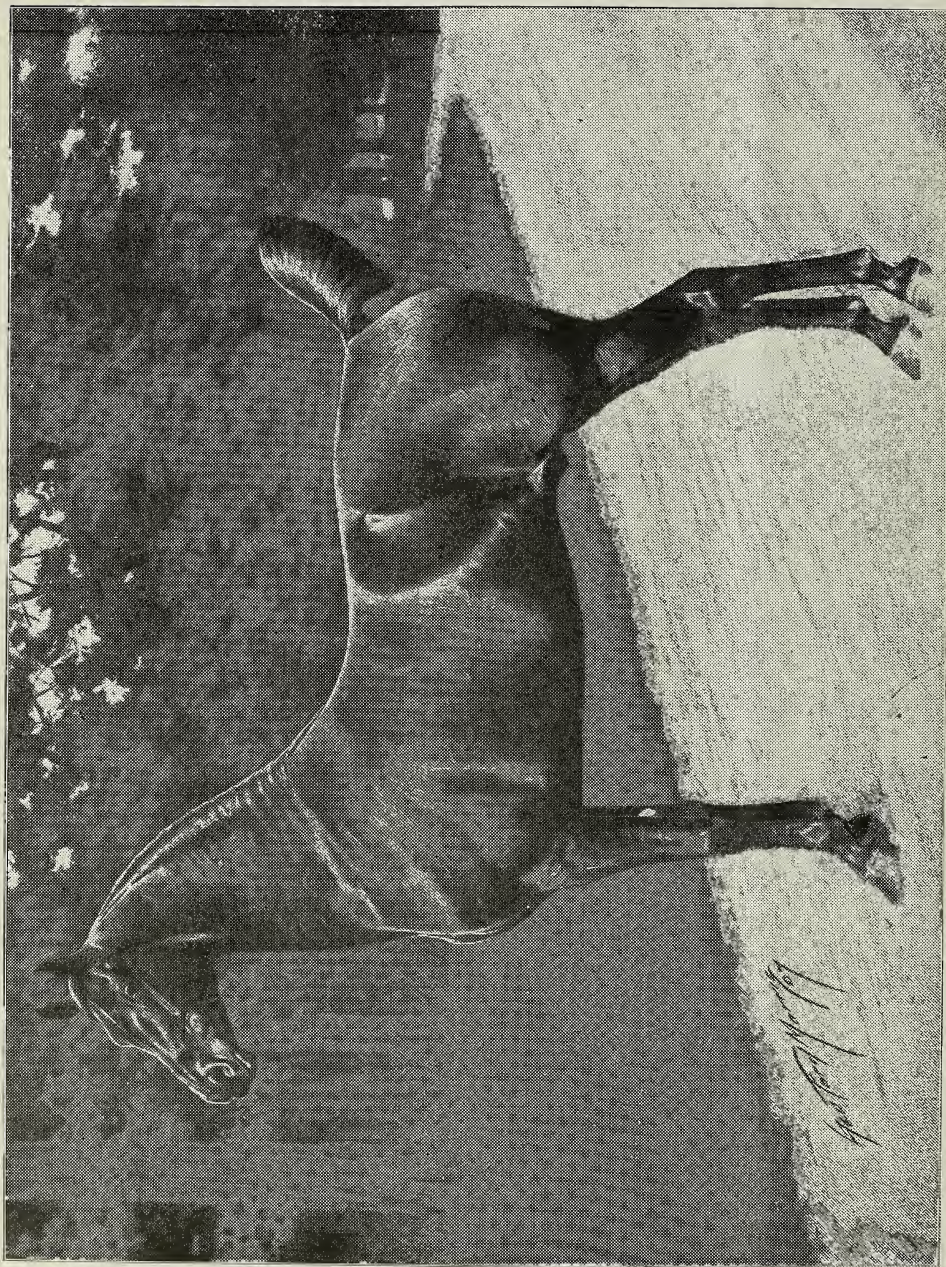
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THE AGRICULTURAL STUDENT

Vol. XVI. OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, COLUMBUS, FEBRUARY, 1910 Number 5

Percheron Horses

By J. B. McLaughlin

A little section of France, about one-tenth the size of the State of Ohio, has become the most famous agricultural section of the world through the breed of horses which is produced there. The district in which Percheron horses are bred and raised in France is only about the same size as eight of our counties in Ohio. This little district of La Perche begins about seventy miles southwest of Paris and is located between the valleys of the Seine and the Loire. A small river called the Huisne traverses the district from end to end. It is one of the most curious things in live stock breeding that so small a section should become so famous.

The Percheron district has no large cities within its borders. It is beyond a doubt the richest and most flourishing agricultural section in the world today.

Percheron horses have improved the breeds of draft horses in every civilized country in the world. The Percheron horse seems to make a better cross with foreign breeds of horses than does any other known draft breed. It is undoubtedly due to this fact that the Percheron horse is so widely distributed.

I might trace its origin back, as do the historians of the Percheron breed in France, to the time of the Crusades. I might tell you that these same historians lay a great deal of stress upon the Oriental blood that was introduced at

that time, and later, into the Percheron breed; but, the things in which we are interested are not so much what has been done in the past as how things are at the present time.

The breeders in the Percheron district give a great deal of credit to the soil and the climate of their Province. They say that a Percheron horse in its purity, with its strength, its force, its vigor, its harmonious outline, can not be bred and developed in any other section as well as it can be within the limits of La Perche. Whether or not their contention is true, it is a fact that we do not find in France, in any of the other horse breeding sections, draft horses of equal merit to those that we find in the Percheron district, notwithstanding the fact that the Percheron horse has been persistently used for many years in improving the other draft breeds of that country.

The Percheron country is divided into what they call small farms and big farms. The small farmer has from one to four mares and is the actual breeder. The small farmer sells his male colts almost at the time they are born and delivers them at the time they are weaned to the big farmer, who feeds them and grows them until they are two years old. He keeps the filly foals in order to replace his older brood mares when they are sold. About two-thirds

of the farmers in the Percheron district consist of these small farmers. They practice economy in its most stringent form. Every thing they have must produce something. The mares must all work. They must not only produce a colt every year, or nearly so, but they must do the work on the farm as well. The mares are never kept in idleness; as soon as a mare misses having a colt the second year, she is sold and her place is taken by one of the younger fillies. While the mares are worked hard, yet the farmer always feeds them well, so that they have the strength and the

vigor to produce a good, big, healthy colt and give plenty of milk on which to raise it until weaning time.

The big farmers in the Percheron district are the owners of the stallions. Every spring they buy of all the small farmers every male colt sired by their horses that they consider sufficiently good to develop into a stallion. These big farmers, almost without exception, live in the Valley of the Huisne. Their land is nearly all in permanent pasture and it is here that the Percheron stallion grows and develops at liberty until he is rising three years old. These colts,



in a climate almost as cold as ours, are left at liberty at all times, winter and summer. I think the health and the vigor of the Percheron horse is due, to a great extent, to his never being kept, when he is young, in close, badly ventilated stables. While these colts are always kept at liberty in the pastures, yet they are always well fed with grain so that they are at no time stunted in their growth.

The development of the Percheron horse undoubtedly is due, to a great extent, to the soil and climate, yet the breeders, the men who choose the stallions, who select the mares, and who raise them until maturity have a great deal to do with it. These men not only have an intense love for their Province, and are proud of its most important industry, but they are lovers of the animals they breed. They look after them carefully; they treat them well. They do their utmost to see that each animal has the proper care, the proper attention, the proper feed, the proper nourishment, in order to bring it to its most perfect development. The love of their breed of horses is bred in them. The son follows in the footsteps of his father and attempts to improve upon what his father has already accomplished. Theirs is a section where the young men do

not leave their birthplace and go to the cities, but where they stay in the locality in which they were born because they love it and appreciate the opportunity that they have in producing the best breed of draft horses in the world. A fact which possibly influences to a great extent the young man to stay in the country is because, at the bottom, the French farmer is economical, and he loves very much the dollars which flow into his pockets from the other countries of the world for the horses which they breed and raise.

The French Government has for many years taken a great interest in the breeding of Percheron horses. Through its system of Shows, through the pensions and approval given to the best stallions, it has had a great influence upon the improvement of the Percheron breed.

Only about five thousand colts, considered sufficiently good for registration, are bred each year in the Percheron district. In spite of the continuous drain upon the breeding stock of the country, the Percheron horse is today better than he ever was. His size has been increased, while the qualities which have made him famous throughout the world have not diminished.



Breeding the Farm Horse

By Howard M. Call

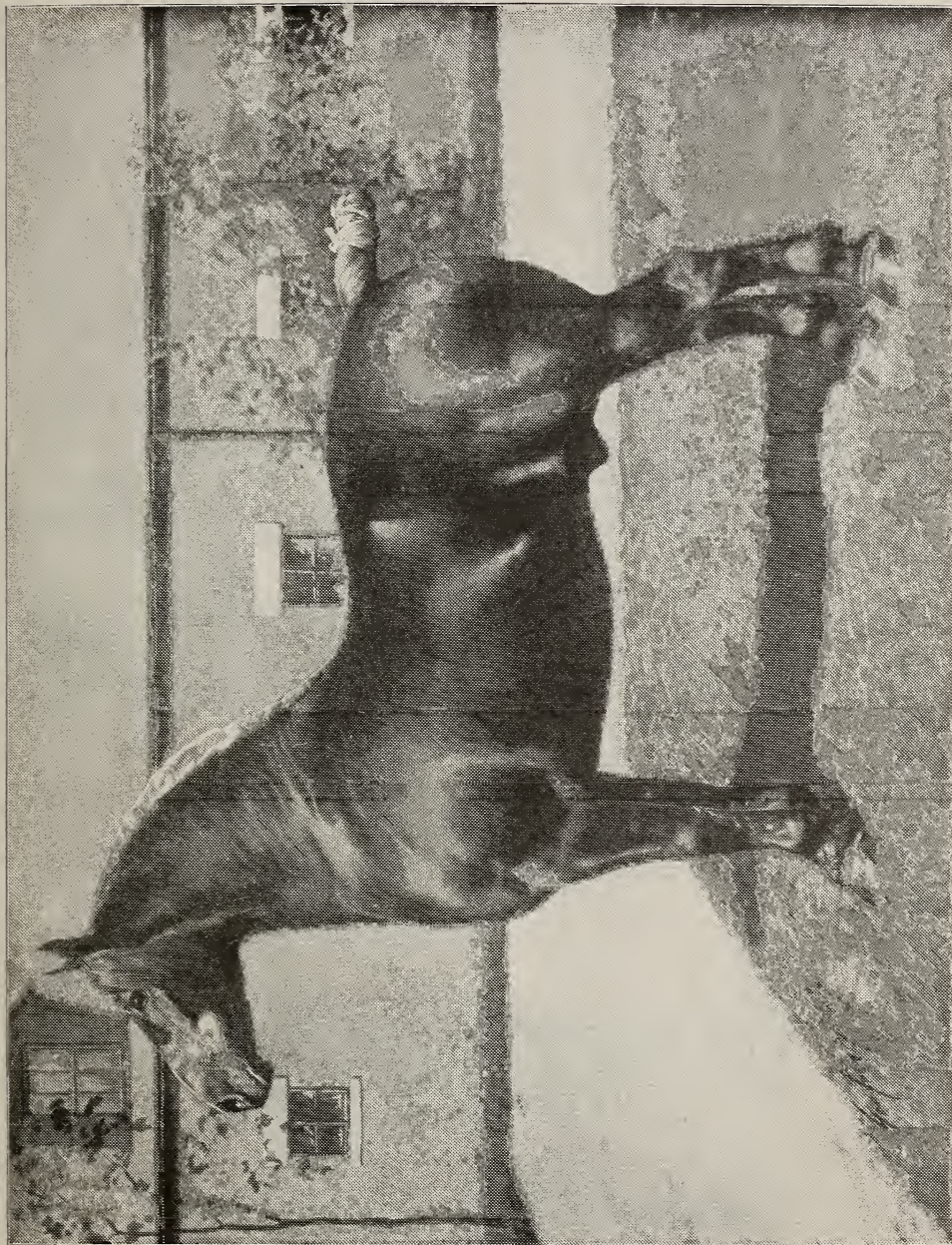
With the enormous output of automobiles, year after year, and the various uses to which they are being put, it seems as though the prediction that the horse would soon become a thing of the past, would come true. Let us look for a moment at present quotations and see what they show? Here we find that the prices of good horses, especially draft horses, have not been declining, but if anything slightly increasing in value. At the present time good teams of drafters are selling at from six to eight hundred dollars.

Ordinarily the farmer does not look upon his horses as a money-making proposition, but instead, considers them as part of his equipment, such as his implements which are a necessity in order to profitably carry on his general farm work. Too often, however, they are also treated in a like manner. This fact is substantiated by the kind of horses that are found on the farms throughout the country. How many poor crippled old plugs will you find for every one good horse? I would not venture to make an estimate, but the number is certainly far too great. Is it not economical to keep a good horse, either for draft work or driving purposes? A poor horse will consume just as much food, if not more than a good one, and at the same time probably do one-third less work. Is it not true that a good horse will obtain more energy out of a given amount of food than a poor one? Besides this, consider it from the driver's point of view; he will surely be far better satisfied with his position and I'm sure that in a case of this kind that appearances are certainly worth something.

No farmer can do anything with less than two horses and more often four or six are required. It is just as easy to keep one or more good brood mares; of course they cannot be depended upon to do quite as much work and perhaps they will require more feed than a gelding of same weight, but this amount is small. At the same time, however, they will bring in a good income, which of course will vary considerably with the breed and quality of the animals raised.

The question naturally arises, what kind will be the most profitable. This will depend upon many things and can be settled only by the breeder. There are supporters of every breed that will tell you his is the best, and perhaps it is under his conditions.

Too often, it seems to me, you will find farmers breeding horses weighing from one thousand to twelve hundred pounds and trying to do their farm work with them. They say that a horse of this kind is a general purpose horse, one that can plow or hitch up and drive. There is no doubt that a horse of this kind is often desirable, but wouldn't it be more economical to have the driving horse and the draft horse in two different animals instead of trying to combine them into one, which is neither a good driver nor a good draft horse? Besides, a light horse is more difficult to train and consequently would require more attention and, as most farmers are not expert horsemen, they do not understand how to secure the best possible gait and action which a driving horse must have to command a high price, equal to that of the draft horse. Then, again, the heavy horse can be worked much younger, being



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able to stand light work at two years of age, thus being able to pay for its keeping and at the same time be growing into money. If the draft colt becomes blemished from any cause, it does not have such a marked effect upon the price paid as with the driving horse, which in a great many cases would render the latter practically worthless.

If the draft horse is the one from which the greatest net returns can be obtained, then what breed is most desirable? This will depend much upon the liking of the breeder, convenience to good stock and the market. While it is not always possible to obtain pure-bred stock with which to begin, yet they should be of high grade and very desirable animals. A pure-bred sire of the same breed as the preponderance of blood in the mares should always be used in order to obtain the best results. As to the size most desirable, this will depend considerably. It is not necessary that the mares weigh more than from fourteen to sixteen hundred

pounds, as they are rather cumbersome for general farm work when exceeding this weight. By breeding such mares to stallions weighing about two thousand pounds, the progeny will be of a very desirable size and, when possessing good quality, will command a high price in any market.

Of course, the farmer must have his driving horse and this he must buy, but he can obtain it for equal, if not less, than what he will receive for one of his draft colts. On most farms there is enough business for at least one good driving horse, besides the satisfaction of owning one.

Where is the man that would not love to be the proud possessor of a fine strong team of Percherons to do his farm work and a good driving horse with spirit and action—one that would take him to town and back again while his neighbor was going one way with his general purpose kind? It is very difficult to combine two good qualities in one animal; specialization increases efficiency.



The Trend in Agriculture

By Prof. F. R. Marshall

The boycott on meat is an accompaniment of another step toward more intensive agriculture. For some years the prices of market stock were not attractive to tenant farmers or to others so prodigal of soils as to continue grain selling against their own better judgments. Agricultural progress does not become general, however, through altruistic or philanthropic motives. The law of supply and demand is more effective.

Whatever may be said about gold supplies and illegal combinations, it cannot be denied that recent meat prices are mainly attributable to a shrunken supply and a broadened demand. The resultant high prices will bring stock farming into more general favor as the most profitable means of cashing farm crops and farmers' skill. This condition would have arrived earlier had not the natural course of events been interrupted by the eastern marketing of the products of the far West.

As it is now, we may feel assured that our agriculture of the Middle West, while more intensive, will also be more permanent in character. My idea is that in each locality and on each farm some plan of farming will be adapted and adhered to that returns will not be measured by cash sales alone, but some credit will be allowed for soil improvement, which means lower cost of production of future crops. In such a time, which has already arrived in a few localities, there will be courage enough to stick to a well thought out plan even though in some years some of the products do not bring boom prices; the low spots will be accepted with the high, and the total prof-

its and increment of land values in a period of years will be much greater than could possibly accrue under a procedure of continual shifting in attempting to always ride the crest of the wave.

In such a time the raising of all classes of stock will be followed with greatest care and economy. Different farms will have their specialties, but doubtless the bulk of the horse supply will come from the small contributions of many farms. The lighter classes of horses will probably be raised in larger groups by men qualified to give a part of the training that enters so largely into the make-up of the pleasure horse. Many of the lower priced lands in Eastern states can be utilized for this purpose.

Horses for labor, while perhaps not a chief part of the saleable product of stock farms, will furnish a regular and considerable portion of each year's revenue. There is good reason to believe that the larger and better formed stock will always be profitable to the raiser, though there is no such assurance to the vender of commoner, unclassified stuff.

The rearing of horses is peculiar in that the majority of breeders are forced to patronize stallions used for public service. This makes stallion service a legitimate subject of such legislation as shall ensure for the patrons full and fair representations regarding the qualities of the stallions for which public service is solicited. Within the past four years fifteen states have enacted new laws of this character, the real value of which lies in education through the study and interest aroused by the law's operations.

The American Trotting Horse

By E. P. H.

In the year 1629 there was imported into Massachusetts some English running horses. This breed is the foundation stock of all speed horses. For more than a century this horse has been bred pure, for its speed and stamina. The American, with his original ideas, has not so strictly followed the plan of English racing, but has from her stock produced the American trotter. Not only is this horse noted for his speed, but for stamina, which makes him one of the most useful of the light harness horses. Every day on the farm, on the streets and wherever horses of activity, style and endurance are needed, we see him or his offspring. He is the foundation of our carriage and practically all of our light harness horses, and thus has been a useful factor in bringing the light horse of America to a high standard.

The long course of breeding, with careful selection makes of him a solid foundation on which to build for a horse, not only of speed and endurance, but also of style and action. Although for fifty years we have exhausted our ingenuity to make him "go low" and "stealing gaited," and if he bent his knees or "pulled" his hocks he was discriminated against. Yet the moment he is balanced and asked to go high he startles the world by his novel task. Furthermore, train him to go as high as you like and he is a trotter again. This, with the soundness of his breeding, his constitution and extreme speed, opens another channel for his development to meet the requirements for a horse that can "go high," that possesses style and graceful carriage and has speed, which today is in great demand, along with

constitution that makes him more useful and serviceable.

Trotting bred horses have as yet produced but few show horses and high actors because they have always been bred and trained for something entirely different, and breeders have never taken this phase into consideration to any great degree, yet his adaptability to meet these requirements are demonstrated by the fact that he will go high and continue his speed for the asking.

As a race horse he is the world's speediest harness horse and many countries have sent buyers to carry away our trotters to improve their horses that after a hundred or more years of effort have not approached the American trotter for action, pace and endurance.

Since colonial times horse racing has grown until today we have the extreme of speed that startles the world. Dan Patch, the fastest harness horse that the world has ever known, has repeatedly lowered all records and today stands unbeaten as the monarch of the racing world.

As a trotter Lou Dillon has done what Dan Patch did as a pacer. She has brought the world's record beyond the reach of all others at the present time and retired in the prime of her life laden with laurels of success, for hers was the conquest of the trotting world.

Perhaps the greatest feat that has yet been performed by a trotter was that of the sensational little queen of the turf, Native Belle, when at Lexington, Kentucky, she startled the world by doing what had for nineteen years been thought impossible, and lowered the world's two-year-old record to 2:07 $\frac{3}{4}$.

These are a few of the sensations, but the credit for the high standard of the light harness horse of America.



Lambert G. Morgan Stallion
Owned by O. S. U.

THE BOY FROM TOWN.

Last night a boy came here from town
To stay a week or so
Because his maw is all run down
And needs a rest, you know.
His name is Cecil, and he's eight,
And he can't skin the cat—
His maw, she calls him "Pete," I'd hate
To have a name like that.

He wears a collar and a tie
And can't hang by his toes;
I guess that I would nearly die
If I had on his clothes.
He can't ride horseback, and today
When we slid on the stray,
He as'd if roosters help to lay
The eggs I pick for maw.

When our old gander hissed he run,
As though he thought he'd bite,
And he ain't never shot a gun
Or had a homemade kite.
He never milked a cow or he
Can't even dive or swim—
I'd hate to think that he was me
I'm glad that I ain't him.

A little while ago when we
Were foolin' in the shed
He suddenly got mad at me,
Because I bumped his head.
There's lots of things that he can't do,
He thinks that sheep'll bite,
And he's afraid of ganders, too;
But he can fight all right.

—R. E. Kiser in Live Stock World.

“The Stallion Law”

V. E. Brubaker

As a rule, farmers are not as good judges of horses, especially with regard to proper conformation and soundness, as the breeder or dealer who have made it a special study. The result of all this has been to allow our horses to depreciate in quality. Very frequently the best horses have been sold and allowed to go out of the state because of tempting offers made for them. Farmers have been the victims of shrewd and experienced salesmen, who have induced them to buy horses that were not sound and have used these unsound horses for breeding purposes. High prices have kept stallion owners from buying and offering for service the best stallions, for, as a rule, farmers do not care to pay a service fee which would justify the expense. These factors have greatly changed the horse breeding industry. Today we are facing a new order of things and the state is asked to take a hand and help free us from what seems to be an objectionable and retarding condition.

The Agricultural College, Agricultural Experiment Station, Farmers' Institutes and agricultural journals have done much to stimulate a desire for better horses.

Before proceeding any farther let us stop and consider a few factors which may lead us to realize the necessity of a stallion law in our own state.

One of these factors we may first consider is the uniformity and persistency in breeding. Through imported animals there has been a lack in the principles of our breeding operations. Farmers, of course, attempt to improve their horses by grading up, or by mating

with pure-bred stock until this blood predominates over the native stock. These steps have been well intended and would have given good results had the farmer continued to breed up by successive top-crossing with sires of the same breed.

Five or more of these top-crossings are required to obliterate the native blood, and, in fact, practically constitutes purity of blood, according to requirements of the stud books. But, breeders here make the same mistake as elsewhere; they have no definite plan of grading-up. They commence right, but soon get on the wrong road by mating the female progeny with horses of another breed. This, of course, results in all kinds of crosses and the result being that most of our horses are of mixed breeding and many of them mere mongrels and misfits. To make this clear, we may say, for example, that the owner of several good brood mares, of some selected type, but of native blood, starts to grade up by mating them with a pure Percheron stallion and use the same breed right along, year after year, until all the native blood has been obliterated. And by careful selection through this process we may have a good line of stock which may be recorded in the stud book.

This naturally would bring up the use and value of a pedigree of our best sires. A pedigree of a horse is simply a record showing the animals that have in succession entered into the breeding of the animal. It also shows that an animal belongs to a distinct breed. Furthermore, the character of the man back of the pedigree should be taken

into consideration. In many cases, if the man or owner of an animal with a pedigree desires to be false he may in some way alter the pedigree in order to aid in the advertisement of it.

Every sound pure-bred stallion should be duly recorded in the stud book of the breed represented. Of course all breeders should attend to the recording of their animals in the stud book, and the proper and safest way for them is to become a member of the association which publishes the book of their particular breed. It is through these associations that our breeds of horses are becoming better established and will lead to the adoption of a Stallion Law, if our breeders will understand the real necessity of such a law. The stallion law is not yet very widely in operation in the United States, Wisconsin being the strongest in this operation and really the only state that has a real stallion law.

The Wisconsin stallion law went into effect January 1, 1906, and has been amended in 1907-08. It was the first law of the kind enacted in America and has been copied, with certain changes and alterations, by the Legislatures of the following states: Minnesota, Iowa, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Utah, Colorado, South Dakota and Washington. The law does not deprive any man of the right to stand any sound stallion for public service. It puts the work of issuing licenses to stallions in the hands of the Department of Horse Breeding of the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin. The fees collected for licenses, transfers on ownership, renewal of licenses and duplicate licenses, in case of loss, go into the general funds of the college.

The object of the license is to correctly label each public service stallion ex-

actly what it is as regards breeding and guarantee that the stallion has been sworn to be sound either by the owner or a duly authorized veterinarian.

As Ohio is now working for a stallion law, or at least making an effort for one, I will relate some of the principal licenses of the Wisconsin law. It provides for the following:

First—Pure-Bred, for a stallion both of whose parents are pure-bred and recorded in a stud book recognized by the Government and himself duly recorded in such a stud book. The owner submits the registry certificate in applying for a license.

Second—Cross-bred, for a stallion whose sire is pure-bred and recorded, of one breed, and whose dam is pure-bred and recorded, but of a different breed. As, for instance, a stallion of a pure-bred Percheron and out of a pure-bred Clydesdale mare.

Third—Grade, for a stallion by either a pure-bred recorded sire or out of a pure-bred recorded dam.

Fourth—Non-Standard Bred, for a trotting bred stallion recorded as "non-standard bred" in the American Trotter Register and not eligible to register as "standard bred."

Fifth—"Mongrel or Scrub," for a stallion neither by a pure-bred sire nor out of a pure-bred dam. This license was provided by the last Legislature and will be given to many horses previously licensed as "grades," now that their old licenses have to be renewed to make them good in 1910 and 1911. The fee for a new license is \$2.00; the fee for a renewal of the license, each other year is \$1.00; for a transfer, fifty cents; for a duplicate in case of loss, fifty cents. The stallion owner pays the veterinarian making the examination for soundness.

The Department has a right to refuse a license when a stallion is unsound.

There is a jail term or fine for infringement of the law and the amended law makes it the duty of the district attorney to prosecute the case in the county where the violation of the law took place.

Since the enactment of the law more than 100 unsound stallions have been retired from service, to the knowledge of the Department, while hundreds of others have been shipped out of the state or castrated, presumably for a similar cause or for the fact that they have been unsuitable or could find no patronage when publicly advertised as to their exact breeding, etc.

Looking at licenses issued to date, we find that the following percentage of pure-bred and grade stallions may be set down: 1906-07, pure-bred, 35 per cent.; grade, 65 per cent.; 1907-8, pure bred, 40 per cent.; grade, 60 per cent.;

1908-9, pure-bred, 42 per cent.; grade, 58 per cent.

The general effect of the law has been most helpful. It has set men to thinking and talking about improved horse breeding in every village and town in the state and, while grade and scrub stallions still are numerous, the owners find it increasingly difficult to obtain patronage, and as quickly as it can be managed pure-bred stallions will inevitably take the place of the undesirable sires.

From these reports I see no reason why Ohio could not be well benefited with such a law if properly enforced. I think if we do not succeed in passing this law it will be on account of so many not really realizing the good it would do for horse raising in Ohio and, on the other hand, those who do know and probably see the need of it, not doing their duty to push it into effect.



Hackney Stallion

The Hackney in America

By Edward H. Mickle

The last few years impertinent prophecies have been heard coming mostly from the automobile enthusiasts and intended for the horsemen. "The day of horses for pleasure driving is fast passing;" "The horse is going out of fashion," etc. But in spite of the fact that automobiles are steadily gaining in popularity with a certain class, there are a great many who will not give up the horse. The automobile is a machine, it needs a man to guide it, to watch it every second it is running. It runs over embankments and into ditches without warning. The horse is an animate being and his beauty and faithfulness have created a consideration in man for him. Nor does the horse have to be watched every second that he is in motion, the driver has time to enjoy the scenery without being fearful that he will land in the ditch the next instant. While the past few years have not seen as great a demand, the future looks bright to the horse breeder. Prices that had never before been known have been paid for the "good ones." This is especially true of horses for pleasure driving. Perhaps the automobile has caused a drop in prices and in number in use of the commoner types of these horses and made only the better types desirable. If this is true it has done something in promoting horse interest. Whether it is the automobile or the growth of fancy taste and prosperity I can not say. However, it is true that a horse today must be better in all respects than he was ten years ago. Horse shows are in fashion now as never before and the demand for horses good enough to show has never been equaled. This is especi-

ally true of the heavy harness or coach horse.

The coach horse must be beautiful and symmetrical in all parts; head well up; neck arched and muscular but not heavy; shoulders sloping well and smooth. The body must be round and short; the rump long and level; and the quarters well muscled. His legs must be clean and neat and quality must be predominant throughout. The most popular height for a coach horse is between fifteen hands and fifteen-three.

Combined with the above points of conformation, he must be well broke, and his action must be trappy to the extreme and lasting. Without proper training a horse will not step high. He must be taught to arch his neck and throw in his chin. He must be easily tractable, or in other words controllable by "two fingers."

In obtaining the proper training and lasting of action one thing is of prime importance. Most any horse can be made to step high for a short time by proper training, but it will not stay unless it is hereditary in the animal.

Where will we get horses with these qualities, horses with coachy conformation and where trappy action is hereditary. Here in the United States we might, by careful selection and breeding make such a horse from our own types. A movement of this kind is being carried on now by the government. They are trying to develop from our American types, "The Standard Bred" and "The American Saddle Horse," without the use of outside blood, a horse that they are pleased to call "The American Carriage Horse." These experi-

ments are being conducted on a farm in Colorado and are showing marked success for the short time they have been under way. Still this can not be accomplished in a few generations. If a success, as we have reason to expect, it will be many years before this type of horse will be plentiful enough to supply the demand. What are we going to do in the mean time? We must look for a substitute.

The English Hackney has shown himself the superior of the American horses in heavy harness, up to the present time, by the honors won at the various shows. He is the king of heavy harness horses. His beauty of form is natural, his trappy action is hereditary from a long line of high stepping ancestors. This ancestry means two things to us, Americans. First it means that the pure-bred Hackney is, as above stated, the king of coach horses. The second meaning can not be stated until we have first looked into a little of the history of this breed of horses.

About the middle of the eighteenth century the first volume of the "English Hackey Studbook" was printed. Up to this time the Hackney had not been recognized as a breed. In this book the pedigrees of the horses registered trace back to Arabian, Barb and native horses. The Hackney evolved in Norfolk County, England, from the native Norfolk trotting horse with crosses of the Arabian, Barb and even the Thoroughbred. Now we can see the second

meaning of the Hackney ancestry to Americans. Imported Bellfounder, one of the foundation horses of the American Trotter, was a Norfolk Trotter. In fact we find him referred to in many places as the first Hackney brought to America. This shows us that both the American Trotter and the English Hackney are of one and the same ancestry. The only difference is that through selection the American Trotter has been evolved, an angular horse with great speed, while through a different line of selection the English Hackney has been produced, a horse with quality, beauty and symmetry of conformation and trappy action. What does this similarity of ancestry tell us? It tells us two things, first that through selection it will be possible in time to develop an "American Carriage Horse," and second, it tells us that there is a quicker way, that the Hackney should cross with the American Trotter and produce—while not the equal—a very good substitute for the pure-bred Hackney. Nor is this simply theory. It has been proven in practice. The crosses between our types and the German Coach and French Coach have not given us remarkable performers, but when a Hackney is crossed with our types and the progeny properly trained we have in most cases a horse that is beautiful in conformation and having a lasting trappy action that is only rivalled at the present time by his half brother, the pure-bred English Hackney.



Team of Roadsters, to compete for honors at the coming Horse Show. Formerly owned by F. P. Mitchell & Co., of this City.

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DAIRYING AND CREAMERY WORK

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COLUMBUS, O., FEBRUARY 15, 1910.

EDITORIAL

The question which seems to be paramount in the minds of every one from the highest statesman to the lowliest laborer is the high price of living. Legislators have ordered investigations, labor unions have ordered meat boycotts and we still pay our good money for the necessities of living. Some of our more rabid investigators have laid the cause at the door of the farmer and picture him sitting in ease in his palatial home smoking perfectos and drinking champagne wrung from the

poor laborer and capitalist. We admit that the farmer is receiving high prices for his products, but at the same time he is paying well for what he buys and working hard for the profit that is due him.

The price of meat seems to be the greatest cause of discussion. The Experiment Stations and Agricultural Colleges have their best men working on the proposition of how to feed sixty cent corn, ten dollar hay, and twenty-four dollar oil meal to a steer and make five dollars on the steer. A large per cent. of the feeders of the country are feeding cattle at a loss, although they may not recognize the fact. At the present price of feed it is impossible to produce meat any cheaper and leave a profit to the feeder. The real reason of the high prices of the commodities may be laid to the fact that the cities are being congested by men who come in from the country to work for "real wages." In this manner labor on the farm has become both scarce and expensive and the consumption has more than equaled production. Let more men go into farming, farm more intensively and more scientifically, raise more and better live stock, and we will hear less of the high cost of living or "the cost of high living," as Jas. J. Hill terms it.

We will admit that the labor unions which agitated the recent meat boycott had a cause to kick, but if their energies had been spent in persuading their employers to give them enough wages to live comfortably, they would have accomplished more good than their unwarranted attack upon the farmer.

The "Student" wishes to extend its most heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Dix in his late bereavement of both father and mother.

Agriculture Students Union Banquet

The annual banquet of the Agricultural Students' Union was held at Beggs' Restaurant, Wednesday evening, January 12. This organization had its origin among a number of students who wished to keep the farmer in touch with the experimental and scientific work of the College and Station. As a result of this effort there has arisen two departments, which have grown so vastly in the last few years that it has become necessary to delegate their work to two new and separate organizations, viz: Agricultural Extension work conducted by the University, and co-operative experimental work conducted by the Station. A. B. Graham responded to a toast on the former and L. M. Goddard on the latter. To the toast, "The Future Work of the Union," J. F. Cunningham responded. In delegating our work to two different organizations, have we not practically legislated ourselves out of existence? Mr. Cunningham does not think so. He suggests that the Union make itself a legislative representative of these two organs, keeping the legislators well informed as to the work of these bodies.

Prof. W. B. Alwood, an old Ohioan and first Superintendent of the Experiment Station, responded when called upon, with a reminiscent talk. He suggested that the Union make a plea for aesthetic ideals among its members and farmers throughout the state.

The election of officers was as follows: President, D. W. Crowmer; Vice President, Mr. Galehouse; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Abbot.

We wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr. Jas. B. McLaughlin for his kindness in furnishing us with several cuts for this issue.

The week of June 14 will be a banner week in Columbus for all equine lovers. The Horse Show to be given that week under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce promises to be one of the best of its kind. From present indications the Columbus Driving Park stables will be filled with the best horses of the country. A particularly interesting feature, locally, will be the parade of the draft horses of Columbus, showing the best that the city affords.

GREAT HORSES DIE OFF.

Four great horses that helped make turf history have passed away recently. The death of one of these, Hamburg Belle, was especially surprising to the horse world. She established a new world's trotting record but a short time ago, after which she was sold at a world's record price, \$50,000. H. M. Hanna, a Cleveland man, being the purchaser. Her new owner had shipped her to Thomasville, Ga., where she died of pneumonia, caused by a cold caught on the trip. She was foaled in 1902. The others that have died are Salvator. Directum and Tenny. Directum's death was due to blood poisoning, but the horse was 21 years old. His record of 2:05 $\frac{1}{4}$, made at Nashville, Tenn., in 1893, has never been beaten by a four-year-old trotter. M. W. Savage, who owned Directum at the time of his death less than a week ago, paid \$20,000 for him in 1898.



NEWS NOTES



ARMOUR SCHOLARSHIPS, 1909

Summary of Winnings of the Colleges.

To the College whose team did the most efficient work in the Student Judging Contest:

Horses—Missouri	1
Cattle—Iowa	1
Sheep—Ohio	1
Swine—Iowa	1
All classes—Iowa	1

There being no feed and forage exhibit this year, the scholarship which would have gone to the winner of that event was added to the fourteen to be distributed on the basis of cash premiums won by the colleges in the open classes for "International" money only, making a total of 15 scholarships so distributed.

Awards were as follows: Iowa, 4; Kansas, 3; Nebraska, 3; Wisconsin, 3; Ohio, 1; Missouri, 1; Minnesota, 1; Wyoming, 1.

Total winning of each college: Iowa, 7; Kansas, 3; Nebraska, 2; Wisconsin, 2; Missouri, 2; Ohio, 2; Minnesota, 1; Wyoming, 1.

All students desiring scholarships should mention their age, college year, studies taken, and whatever else they think necessary in their petition which they will file with Prof. Plumb.

The Animal Husbandry Department has just shipped to Georgia two Berkshire gilts. A letter received from the

buyer reports that the pigs were in good condition and fine looking.

In January Prof. Plumb attended the dispersal sale of the Berkshire herd of "Southfarm Waithill," Willoby, Ohio. While there he purchased five boar pigs and two sow pigs for the University. The boar pigs were converted into barrows with a view of showing them at the next International. The sow pigs are unusually good specimens of the breed.

The Animal Husbandry Department purchased in January from Mr. B. F. Hawley, of Woodstock, Ohio, two pure bred Shorthorn steer calves that give much promise for future development. It is the intention of the Department to show these at the next International if they finish out well.

The library has just received a set of the English Hereford Herd Books. The first volume of these books was published in 1862. This is an important addition to the Herd Book collection. At this time a number of important books are being placed on the shelves in the library devoted to Animal Husbandry.

L. W. Shaw, of Class 1902, expert in charge of the sheep work of the Department of Agriculture during the past season, judged sheep at the Alaska-Yukon Exposition, at the International and at the Ogden (Utah) Sheep Show. Prof. Shaw is now rated as one of the most efficient judges of sheep before the American public today.

How France Encourages Horse Breeding

The French government distributed last year 21,000,000 francs, or approximately \$4,200,000, as prizes at horse shows and otherwise in fostering the horse industry. The encouragement given horse breeders in France takes the form of cash, and other prizes offered for stallions and breeding stock at shows and bounties to the owners of approved stallions standing for service at moderate fees. In addition to this the government maintains 3,500 well bred stallions of its own, which last year were bred to 150,935 mares. The approved stallions on which bounty was paid served 92,482 mares, making a total of 243,416 mares bred in France in one season under government supervision. France is more advanced than any nation in Europe in encouragement extended to horse breeders. The object of the government's care is to ensure an adequate supply of horses at all times for military purposes. The payment of prizes and bounties, however, is not confined to breeds adapted for cavalry use. The draft breeds share in the government system of bounties, and are bred very largely under government supervision.

L. L. Mowls and T. D. Phillips spent the afternoon of January 28 at the beautiful Lindenwald Potato Farm of J. F. Keller, near Newark, O., gathering information regarding the management of specialized types of farming, and secured some very valuable data. By previous arrangement Mr. Keller met them at the station, and after a few minutes' drive they arrived at his comfortable country home. At the first glance one is impressed by the completeness of its equipment, and the arrangement of his farm, not only for its

beauty, but for its utility. Unlike many farms throughout the state, everything is substantial and has its place.

After the rounds of inspection, the remainder of the afternoon was spent in his hospitable parlor, where the story of his great success was unfolded. Mr. Keller purchased his farm when a young man and under adverse circumstances has paid for it, and improved it, until today he has a farm the like of which it is not easy to duplicate. In his specialty, potatoes, he has built for himself a reputation which is not limited by the bounds of his state. As is usual, the time for departure arrived too soon, and after dining with their host, they departed feeling that the time had been well and profitably spent.

Geo. W. Hood, a Senior in Horticulture and Forestry, spent the holiday vacation and first part of January in Southern Texas, visiting with W. G. Yeager, '08, and C. W. DePue, '09, who are located at Falfurrios, Texas. George returned with the trophies of several fine bucks (deers).

Ivan Steiner, '08, is superintendent of the dairy at the Chilmark Farms, Ossining-on-the-Hudson, N. Y.

George Livingston, '09, accepted the Instructorship in Soils at Ames, Iowa. He was formerly connected with the Extension School at Ohio State.

Henry Dilatush, '09, left the stock farm of Mr. Judy at Tallula, Ill., and is managing a stock farm in Arkansas.

John C. McNutt, '07, formerly connected with the Hartman Stock Farm, now is an Instructor in the Department of Agriculture in the New Hampshire College, Durham, N. H.

Agricultural Society

On the evening of February 2 The Agricultural Society was called to order at 8 o'clock by the President, L. M. Oyer. After the reading of the minutes for the January meeting an address entitled, "What Can the Agricultural Student do for His Home Community?" was delivered by Prof. Graham. In this subject the speaker aroused a live interest as shown by the close attention which he received from an unusually large audience. The professor advised the agricultural student on leaving college to go home and illustrate in an unpretentious manner by the success of his own hands the advantages of an education. He will in this way break down the barrier of prejudice and encourage others to follow in his footsteps. The professor not only emphasized the opportunity and duty of the agricultural student in improving his profession, but also the great responsibility he has in revitalizing the politics, the education, the society, and the religion of his home community.

Grover C. Long, '09, is at home on his father's farm at Cardington, O.

At Phoenix, Arizona, Minor Heir paced a mile in $1:59\frac{1}{4}$, lowering his own record from $1:59\frac{1}{2}$ and equaling the world's record for a mile paced "in the open," which was first made in 1897 by Star Pointer and later equaled by Audubon Boy in 1905. Dan Patch paced a mile under similar conditions in 1905 in $1:58$, but it does not stand as a technical record as he had previously made a record of $1:55\frac{1}{4}$ behind a runner, the official ruling being that a horse that takes a record in the latter way cannot thereafter acquire one "in the open" unless it is faster.

Winter Course Lectures

(Continued)

March 4—C. G. Williams, "Plant Breeding."

March 7—C. E. Thorne, Wooster, O., Director Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, "Some Fundamental Principles in Fertility Maintenance."

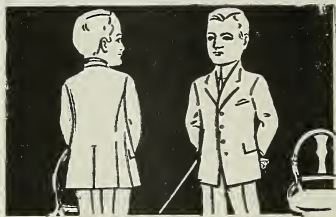
March 8—C. E. Thorne, "The Functions of Lime in the Soil."

March 9—C. E. Thorne, "Suggestions in the Use of Commercial Fertilizers."

March 10—C. E. Thorne, "The Value of Barnyard Manure."

March 11—C. E. Thorne, "Some Essentials in Field Experiments."

March 14—Chas. McIntire, Charleston, W. Va., Supt. Farmers' Institutes of West Virginia, "Live Stock Farming."



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March 15—Chas. McIntire, "Profit in Horses."

March 16—E. S. Bayard, Pittsburg, Pa., Editor National Stockman and Farmer, "Making a Farm Paper."

March 17—E. S. Bayard, "Factory Systems and Farmers."

March 18—Closing day of the Course. (No lecture.)

R. W. Harned, '06, occupies the chair of Entomology at the Mississippi Agricultural College and is also the State Entomologist.

James C. White, '05, resigned his position as editor of the Farm and Fireside for the Crowell Publishing Company at Springfield and is at home on the farm.

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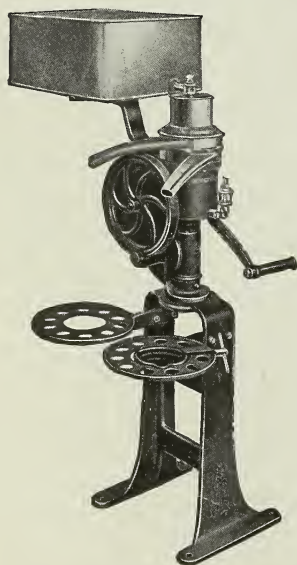
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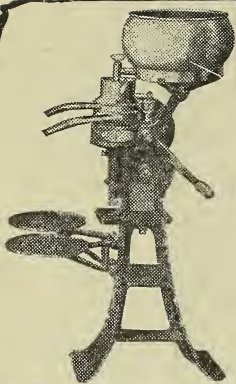
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DRUMM & SACRAMENTO STS.
SAN FRANCISCO

General Offices :

**74 CORTLANDT STREET,
NEW YORK.**

173-177 WILLIAM STREET
MONTREAL

14 & 16 PRINCESS STREET
WINNIPEG

107 FIRST STREET
PORTLAND, OREG.

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